

AETC News Clips



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14 Sep 01

Express-News: America in Agony

Army lost most at Pentagon

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

Web Posted : 09/14/2001

WASHINGTON — About 190 people perished in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and the Army suffered the heaviest blow with 74 people lost, the Defense Department said Thursday.

At the scene, rescuers said they had received a signal from the flight recorder of the commercial jetliner that crashed into the building.

They said they'll be unable to retrieve the unit, the so-called "black box," until they begin moving into the area of the building that collapsed in the attack.

Human remains pulled from the Pentagon were being taken to Dover AFB in Delaware to be identified.

The first two helicopters carrying remains arrived at the base Thursday afternoon, and more were expected, a base spokesman said.

In a preliminary estimate, the Pentagon said 126 people who were in the Pentagon at the time of the attack Tuesday were killed.

All 64 aboard the hijacked American Airlines jetliner that slammed into the Pentagon also died, putting the death toll at 190.

The figure was the first official estimate by the Pentagon. In a brief announcement, the Pentagon said that although search efforts were continuing, the final tally of deaths is not expected to change significantly.

Members of Congress at the site to watch the recovery effort Thursday said they were told by rescue officials that some of the fuselage of the hijacked airplane that hit the Pentagon remains intact in the wreckage.

The "black box" contains flight data and cockpit voice recorders and might provide investigators with information about the flight's last moments.

"It hits you right in the pit of your stomach," Rep. Ken Lucas, D-Ky., said of the gaping hole in the building's side.

Express News

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Of the Army's loss of 74 people, 21 were soldiers, 47 were Army civilians and six were Army contractors. The highest-ranking officer killed was Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel.

The Navy lost 42 people — 33 sailors and nine civilians. A partial list of names of the Navy people missing, released by the Pentagon, showed that most were in their 20s or 30s.

The Marine Corps and the Air Force believe they suffered no personnel losses.

The Pentagon said defense agencies, which it didn't identify by name, lost 10 people. One defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said seven of those worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

As of Thursday morning, about 70 bodies had been removed from the buckled section of the Pentagon as search-and-rescue workers toiled around the clock with little hope of finding more survivors.

The process of going through the rubble piece by piece is arduous, said Arlington, Va., Fire Chief Edward Plaucher. "We're going to be there many, many days," he said.

FBI crews worked side-by-side, looking for evidence and making their way toward the flight-data and voice recorders of the jetliner, which was hijacked by terrorists and slammed into the Pentagon Tuesday.

"We're making inroads into the impact area foot by foot now," Fairfax

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KENS 5 AND THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

KENS 5: Terrorist attack on our nation

FBI searches San Antonio home

By Sarah Lucero

KENS 5 Eyewitness News

Web Posted : 09/13/2001

A San Antonio man is the focus of an FBI investigation. The agency would not confirm if the investigation has anything to do with the recent terrorists attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Authorities began searching the Northwest side home of a UT Health Science Center resident doctor Tuesday night. Nearby residents said the husband and wife lived in the home with two children.

They were considered friendly, one neighbor said.

Neighbors confirmed they have seen officials remove several boxes from the home.

Center officials said the man, who has worked at UTHSC since 1997, has not been back to work since the attack.

The man of middle eastern descent has not been charged in any crime, but he is wanted for questioning by the FBI.

09/13/2001

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- How to talk to children

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- Timeline of attacks
- FBI leads found in Fla.
- FAA extends air traffic ban
- Phone calls came from the sky

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KENS 5 AND THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

NEWS

Express-News: America in Agony

FAA keeps aircraft on short leash

By G. Chambers Williams III

Express-News Staff Writer

Web Posted : 09/13/2001

Airline and air-cargo operations will continue to be stalled until the federal government is convinced new security measures have been implemented at the nation's airports in the wake of Tuesday's terror attacks.

"Safety is always of paramount importance, and in these extraordinary times we intend to be vigilant," U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said Wednesday afternoon from Washington. "We remain committed to resuming commercial flights as soon as possible."

Many travelers were stranded for second day, although a few flights were permitted to resume Wednesday evening.

They were to allow diverted airliners to continue to their original destinations — only with their original passengers on board — and to let the airlines reposition their empty aircraft to prepare for a resumption of service, which could come sometime today, the Transportation Department said.

In addition, military, law enforcement, rescue and medical evacuation flights were allowed to operate, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman John Clabes said from the agency's Southwest Region headquarters in Fort Worth.

Overnight carriers such as Federal Express were scrambling to move their cargo via trucks instead.

Even if cargo flights are allowed to resume, that might not help the U.S. Postal Service, which depends primarily on commercial airline flights to carry most first-class mail, as well as Priority Mail and Express Mail packages.

About 4,500 of the world's 12,000 commercial aircraft were grounded in and near the United States, a spokesman for the International Air Transport Association in Geneva, told the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday.

-About 30,000 passengers from diverted flights were stranded in Canada.

Complete coverage

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KENS 5 coverage

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When full-scale flights do resume, passengers will find a much different atmosphere in the nation's airports, with security rules much stricter than ever before, the FAA said.

Among the new rules is one that relates directly to Tuesday's hijackings of four jetliners: No knives, metallic or plastic, or cutting instruments of any kind will be allowed to be carried onboard any airliner.

At least some of the hijackers reportedly used small knives and razor-blade box cutters as weapons to commandeer aircraft Tuesday.

Previously, knives of up to 4 inches long were allowed on board airliners, including pocket Swiss Army knives that thousands of people carry.

Now, even those will be banned, although they may be carried in checked baggage, the government said. No other sharp instruments will be allowed, including scissors.

Also, airports will be required to allow only ticketed passengers with photo identification past their security checkpoints.

Not even boarding passes or electronic-ticket confirmation letters will be accepted for entry through the checkpoints, FAA spokesman Hank Price said from Washington.

"People will have to have the paper ticket and their IDs in hand," he said.

He declined to speculate on what effect that rule would have on the airlines' electronic-ticketing systems. Most airlines have been moving toward electronic ticketing, with the aim of eliminating paper tickets altogether.

American Airlines even had begun charging customers \$10 for paper tickets in an attempt to force the use of e-tickets. Some airlines have kiosks similar to automatic-teller machines that allow e-ticket holders to check themselves in for flights without talking to a gate or ticket agent.

Other new rules include:

A ban on all curbside and off-airport baggage check-in. Instead, all passengers must check baggage at airline ticket counters in the airports. Some airlines at busy airports such as Atlanta Hartsfield had baggage/passenger check-in counters at hotels and off-airport parking lots, for instance.

A thorough search and security check of airplanes and airports before passengers are allowed to board aircraft.

Closer monitoring of vehicles parked near airport terminals, with immediate towing of unoccupied vehicles.

Even though some flights were being allowed, by late Wednesday

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News Clips

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TIMES

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Thursday 13 September, 2001

NEWS SEARCH

Top Stories

Extra precautions being taken at Altus AFB

By: Michael Bush, managing editor

September 12, 2001

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Traffic remained backed up at Altus Air Force Base today as added security checks were put into place because of yesterday's terrorism attacks. Those trying to drive onto the base have had to wait for up to three hours because of heightened security checks and the closure of the south gate. Several residents parked off base and walked in, or carpooled with others to avoid waiting longer in traffic. The base is also working with the Altus Schools to carpool in the staff at Rivers Elementary School. At 10:30 this morning, some teachers had not gotten onto base. "Altus AFB has instituted an increase in security measures to enhance the safety and protection of our resources including personnel and property," said Altus AFB spokesperson Gwenn Brewer.

Brewer said that access to the base is currently limited to personnel with approved base access, and all base personnel should anticipate inspection of vehicles and other personal property.

To save time, students riding buses to and from school are asked not to carry back packs.

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Security stops slow base access

2001-09-13

By David Zizzo

Staff Writer

Wednesday was a beautiful day and Debbie Kirkpatrick was in her car with the wind in her hair.

The breeze wasn't because she was moving, though. She had removed the car's "T-top" roof panels. During six hours on a morning that was almost over, Kirkpatrick had crept a mile closer to a security checkpoint at Tinker Air Force Base.

"It's frustrating. I want to be in there. I want to help," she said. "At least I can listen to the news."

Kirkpatrick, a production chief for KC-135 aircraft, was in one of several lines, each 100 or more vehicles long, that had formed outside Tinker gates. The Midwest City base, like others around the state and the nation, had tightened security after Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

The wait at Vance Air Force Base in Enid was only 30 minutes, a spokesman said.

But lines miles long caused waits up to three hours at Fort Sill near Lawton, where traffic forced two elementary schools to close. Lines also formed at Altus Air Force Base.

"Hey, I would rather see the waits like that than to have someone get on the base who wasn't supposed to be there," Altus spokeswoman Linda Stokes said.

Increased security meant guards were checking all vehicles, said Tinker spokeswoman Gail Kulhavy, who made it to her post in three hours. With 24,000 civilian and military workers, guards had a huge job, but Kulhavy said things were "business as usual" at the base. Even the midday sirens that wailed across Tinker, triggering worried phone calls to reporters, were routine.

Tinker officials late Wednesday reduced the level of security, which should reduce the wait. However, positive identification still will be required and some delays are expected, they said.

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One man wearing camouflage fatigues said the crawl toward the Tinker gate was way longer than he imagined.

"It's a little bit excessive," said the AWACs worker, who declined to give his name. "Maybe they could have come out and said only people who are mission-essential should come in to work."

Only essential workers were called to work at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, where 150 of 922 employees were at work Wednesday, and at the Vance and Altus bases. All flights at Vance were suspended, as were flights at Altus, except for medical troops that departed for New York or Washington. Vance officials told all base workers to return to normal duty today. The same order was given at the McAlester ammo plant.

To pass the four hours she spent in line at Tinker, Pam Green brought reading material. The Tinker repository worker also brought snacks. But a different requirement -- a rest room break -- was becoming uncomfortably evident.

"That's getting pretty needful," she said.

For her Tinker gridlock ordeal, one woman continually shifted her car into park and turned off the engine "so I didn't use all my gas or overheat my car." After four hours of this, the woman, who declined to give her name because she works in a "secure building," wanted to go home. But she didn't because she worried about losing a day of vacation or pay. "That's why I've sat here," she said. "And we've been here a really long time."

CONTRIBUTING: Staff writers Ron Jackson and Mick Hinton, and Dawn Marks in the Enid Bureau

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Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Tightened security stalls traffic, grinds nerves of residents

BY MITCH MEADOR

AND RENATE BROOKING

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If you're headed to Fort Sill, prepare to wait.

Lawton Public Schools' buses were among the many vehicles caught in long lines Wednesday trying to get on-post at Fort Sill.

School officials had intended to conduct classes at Sheridan Road and Geronimo Road elementary schools but decided to close them Wednesday because security measures at Fort Sill kept teachers and staff from getting to the school.

It was estimated that the delays in line might be several hours.

"Because of these delays, school officials have had no choice but to cancel classes at the two on-post schools," Lawton Public Schools spokesman Joe Wynn said.

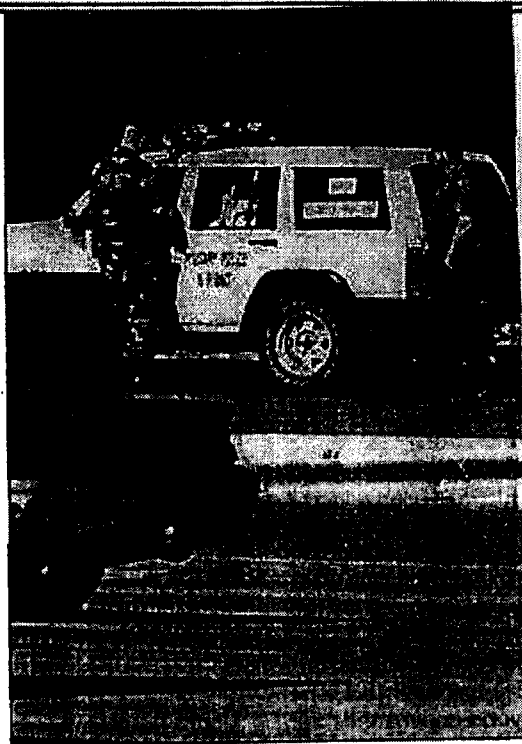
Fort Sill's junior high and high school students who were waiting at bus stops for transport to off-post secondary schools were contacted by Fort Sill military police and told to go home for the day, Wynn said.

The two on-post LPS schools — Geronimo Road Elementary and Sheridan Road Elementary — will remain closed today. In addition, no LPS buses will transport any students from Fort Sill today. Junior high and high school students who live on-post will need to find their own transportation to school today.

All non-post schools will be open as usual today and all non-Fort Sill bus routes will run as usual.

"During this period of tightened Fort Sill security, we are discovering enormous difficulties transporting students, getting all staff members to the Fort Sill schools in a timely manner, and ensuring essential services such as food and milk deliveries," LPS Superintendent Barry Beauchamp said.

"We realize that keeping the schools closed will be an inconvenience for some parents, but we feel that, under these unique circumstances, we cannot guarantee our normal quality of service and instruction for the children at those two schools. We will be analyzing the situation again (today) and will announce (this afternoon) whether the two



schools will be open on Friday and whether Fort Sill bus routes will run on Friday," Beauchamp said.

Cameron University courses on post are canceled today, spokesman Keith Mitchell said.

Appointments today at Reynolds Army Community Hospital are canceled and will be rescheduled. Those requiring emergency care should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

By mid-morning Wednesday, motorists could expect to wait upwards of three hours — even up to seven — to get on post.

Due to the congestion of vehicles waiting to enter Fort Sill at Key Gates east and west and Scott and Bentley gates (at Fort Sill Boulevard and Sheridan Road, respectively), Apache Gate and the 52nd Street Gate were opened at 11 a.m. Wednesday for inbound traffic only. The same security measures were present as at the other gates.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol helped direct traffic on Interstate 44 as traffic backed up for miles while motorists waited to enter Key Gate. But some motorists decided to try to bypass the grid-

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lock and left their vehicles beside the Interstate and walked to post. "Parking along the road is being discouraged," an OHP dispatcher said, noting abandoned cars were being towed.

Key Gate was not the only location of gridlock. Traffic stretched on Sheridan as far back as

Cache Road, said Lawton Police Department Watch Commander Capt. John DeBoard. However, some motorists opted to not wait and parked their vehicles at businesses on Sheridan so they could walk to post.

Kenneth Dorrell, owner of Gate Four Automotive located at 2110 NW Ozmun, let as many people park at his business as he could without it affecting his business.

"I don't mind them parking here if I have room," he said. "But I had to turn some away. Those who I asked to leave were nice about it."

Dorrell said he saw parking lots of other businesses around him filled. "It's been pretty bad," he said, noting people were parking where ever they found room.

But for those who did not park and had to wait, at 3 p.m. Dorrell said someone had told him traffic was still backed up to north-west Denver.

DeBoard said Lawton police were assisting with traffic control in the city. "We're basically watching each major thoroughfare," he said.

DeBoard noted the scale of gridlock in parts of town. Traffic to the Scott Gate at one time was backed up as far as Ferris Avenue and that once the 52nd Street Gate was opened, traffic reached Atwoods.

Some avoided the gridlock by the use of bicycles. Others, such as those trying to enter Interstate 44 from Rogers Lane, were not so lucky. One such motorist stuck his head out the car window and asked if there had been a wreck ahead.

As for security measures, "they're here, too," laughed

Gwen Brewer, chief of public affairs for Altus Air Force Base, when told of the traffic tie-ups outside Fort Sill.

She "guess-timated" that it was taking four hours for vehicles to get on the air base Wednesday. The only gate open was the main gate on Falcon Road, and security was doing total vehicle inspections and ID checks.

All college courses held on Altus Air Force Base were canceled until further notice.

Officials at Altus Air Force Base announced that all base

personnel should report to their duty stations today as scheduled.

Lengthy delays at the gate should be anticipated and car-pooling is encouraged.

Only personnel with official business, scheduled medical appointments, emergencies, or those reporting to work stations should enter the base.

Personnel who live off post are asked to postpone routine visits to the commissary, BX, fitness center, golf course or similar facilities to reduce gate delays.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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Base remains on alert

By Ken Roedl
Montgomery Advertiser

Focused on base and personnel protection, security police armed with M-16 assault rifles continued to search vehicles and check identification Wednesday for anyone trying to enter Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base.

Across town, heavy trucks and trailers remained in place around the Alabama National Guard headquarters, with soldiers standing guard to limit access onto the Federal Drive complex.

Security also remained tight in south Alabama, where two of the entrances at Fort Rucker remained closed. Military police also checked IDs and screened every person and every vehicle coming onto the post.

Although security continued to be tight, Air Force officials downgraded Maxwell-Gunter's "Force Protection Condition" one level — moving it from condition Delta to Charlie. Students and faculty in Maxwell-Gunter's Professional Military Education schools, Officer Training School and Commissioned Officer Training students and fac-

FORCE PROTECTION

A "Force Protection Condition" program standardizes the military services' identification of and recommended responses to enemy threats against U.S. personnel and facilities.

■ **"FPCON Alpha"** applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of "FPCON Bravo" measures.

■ **"FPCON Bravo"** applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. The measures in this level must be capable of being maintained for weeks without causing undue hardship, affecting operational capabil-

ity, and aggravating relations with local authorities.

■ **"FPCON Charlie"** applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent. Implementation of measures in this threat condition for more than a short period probably will create hardship and affect the peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.

■ **"FPCON Delta"** applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely.

ulty will report to class on a staggered schedule today. All other units are restricted to mission-essential personnel.

Lt. Col. Kevin Krejcarek, a base spokesman, said Maxwell is allowing access

through only two of its gates, and that Gunter's Dalraida Street gate is closed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Barriers are also in place at each gate of the installations, he said.

For those on duty, "their

mission is paramount on their mind right now," Krejcarek said. Airmen stationed in Montgomery are in a state of disbelief, he said, with some describing the terrorist attacks and heightened alert as something seen only in a movie.

But that didn't deter them from doing what's required to protect people and property.

"The increased security measures are an inconvenience, even difficult; however, they are a necessary part of what we do," said Staff Sgt. Wendell Carson of the 42nd Security Forces investigations section.

Another airman noticed the unity brought on by Tuesday's tragic events.

"I'm proud of how everyone has worked together during the past two days," Senior Airman Valencia Smith said.

Despite rumors that Guard units were called into service, Lt. Col. Bob Horton of the Alabama National Guard said no personnel have been activated.

"We're still operating at the same state of alert that we were on yesterday," Horton said. "At this time, we have no plans to mobilize."

MAXWELL AFB, AL
Montgomery Advertiser, 13 Sep. 01, 8A



Todd Van Ernst Staff

Traffic is backed up at the Day Street Gate to Maxwell Air Force Base while security police check each vehicle and driver. The security precautions were implemented after Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

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MAXWELL AFB, AL
Montgomery Advertiser, 13 Sep. 01, 8A

Sheppard AFB goes on highest alert

Measures only precautionary

Lynda Stringer
Times Record News

On a day of unmatched horror, Wichita Falls hunkered down, shaken by the slaughter in New York and determined to prevent anything similar from happening here.

Sheppard Air Force Base went on its highest alert, beefing up security and severely restricting access to the base,

as were military bases across the region and nation.

The actions came in response to a series of deadly terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Brig. Gen. Michael Collings, 82nd Training Wing commander, made the decision

early in the day to put the base on its highest security level: Force Protection Condition Delta.

Sheppard officials said the name of the threat levels were changed from the previous Threat Condition levels. Normal conditions at Sheppard

are at Condition Alpha and increase in severity to Condition Bravo, Condition Charlie and the highest level, Condition Delta.

"No specific threat has been identified against Sheppard Air Force Base personnel or families," Collings said in a statement on the commander's cable access channel.

"But it is still prudent to increase security measures for precautionary reasons, especially in light of apparent terrorist attacks in other parts of the U.S."

Sheppard's Chief of Public

Affairs, Maj. John Skinner, said the move to Condition Delta reflects much of what is taking place at military installations all over.

"You can never be too vigilant or too security conscious," Skinner said.

Cars were backed up for at least half a mile along Burk Burnett Road Tuesday afternoon as people who live and work at Sheppard endured identification checks and vehicle inspections as a result of

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Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas
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the base's heightened security level.

Two Wichita Falls police cars blocked traffic from making a left turn from Burkburnett Road and going into the main gate entrance.

Motorists had to go south through the intersection at Sheppard Access Road and take the entrance into the gate off the northbound lane of Burkburnett Road.

"This way the traffic isn't backed up into the middle of the intersection, which would create more problems," said Wichita Falls patrol officer Viroj Deejai, who was directing traffic around 3 p.m. "There's less traffic down Burk Road."

Veejai said he and another officer were getting ready to pull out and let the Texas Department of Transportation set up barricades at the intersection.

"When the base opens back up (to normal traffic) they'll take the barricades down," Veejai said.

During a lengthy wait in line motorists had to show the I.D. cards or driver's licenses to Sheppard's security police. Once at the gate the SP's were doing courtesy vehicle inspections, Veejai said.

Mary Quintana of Wichita Falls was at the Sonic Drive-In across from Sheppard's main gate. At one point Quintana said she walked up to the Visitor's Center at the main gate.

"They're asking everybody for ID's and at the front there are about 12 officers checking everybody's car, they're checking the trunks of the cars and under the seats with a police dog," Quintana said. "She (an SP) stopped me and said, 'Ma'am, can I see your ID?' I said my driver's license was in my car and she told me I could walk up to the Visitor's Center, but they'd tell me to turn around and go back."

A civilian wife of a Sheppard member was trying to get back to her house on base after picking up her son from school.

"Washington hasn't done what it should to avoid this. They're patting people on the wrist when it comes to terrorism," she said.

Penny Salinas, a civilian employee, walked on base to get to her job by 3 p.m.

"It's uncalled for, you just can't explain what's really going on," Salinas said. "You see it on TV and you hope it's not going happen down this way."

Skinner stressed that there is no direct threat to Sheppard members and their families that base officials are aware of.

"It's just wise given the events that occurred today to increase the security level as a precaution," he said.

Force protection is Gen. Collings' No. 1 priority, Skinner said, and he's taking steps to sure the protection of team Sheppard, but he could not be specific about what those steps are.

"I cannot go into what we're doing and how we're doing it, but clearly people can expect delays at our gate," Skinner said. "It would be inappropriate and contrary to good security if I were to detail the security measures used."

Skinner said Sheppard Elementary School, which is on base, or John Tower Elementary School, which is off base but near Sheppard's Capehart Housing, would both be open today. Students at the schools were sent home Tuesday after the attacks.

Non-essential personnel were sent home to be with their families, but Skinner would not say whether those military members would need to report to work today.

"All base personnel are aware of the actions they need to take," Skinner said. "There are systems in place where we are able to communicate with our team members and ensure they are aware of where they need to be."

As for who can get on base and who cannot, Skinner said, "Only mission essential personnel and base residents will be allowed on Sheppard. Everyone else should not attempt to access the base. It just would not be appropriate at this time."

According to a press release from Sheppard's headquarters Air Education and Training Command, the Force Protection Condition Delta was in effect at all 13 of its bases as a result of the attacks.

"The heightened measures are designed to protect people and resources and will be in place indefinitely," the release stated.

Training flights at all the bases are grounded. "AETC is also complying with a request from the Federal Aviation Administration and is not conducting any flight operations," AETC officials said in the release.

Family members who want information regarding Air Force people possibly affected by the attacks can call a toll-free number being manned 24 hours a day by the Air Force News Agency. The number is 1-800-253-9276.

Officials at Fort Sill in Lawton, Okla., and Altus Air Force Base in Altus, Okla., confirmed Tuesday morning that both installations were also on heightened alert.

A spokesperson at Altus said access is now limited and that the base's south gate had been closed. Only people with approved base access and positive identification will be allowed on the base.

Fort Sill, which was an open post until just recently, has posted security personnel at the two gates that remain open to check identification and inspect vehicles.

"Gate access is being restricted until further notice," Fort Sill commander Maj. Gen. Mike Maples said. "The general public is asked not to attempt to enter the post. Personnel with legitimate business are being allowed on post, however they should expect delays."

Public events have been canceled for the next 48 hours although most military business is continuing and the commissary, post

exchange and on post schools will remain open.

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, was not inside the Pentagon when a plane crashed into the building Tuesday morning and was safely home in Virginia by early afternoon.

Thornberry, on the phone from his home in Virginia Tuesday afternoon, said he had taken his kids to school and had breakfast at the Pentagon with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"As that broke up one of the aides said the World Trade Center situation was really bad," he said. "I got in my car and went the Capitol office and was listening to the radio on the way. About 20 to 30 minutes after I left the plane hit the Pentagon."

Shortly after that, the Capitol and the House and Senate office buildings were evacuated. Thornberry, Kennedy and Zickar took Zickar's car to get out of the capital city. "We spent a couple of hours in traffic," Thornberry said.

Thornberry said he did not know any more about what happened at the Pentagon other than what he'd seen on TV, but Congress would receive a briefing by the CIA and the FBI this morning, and Congress would be in session at 10 a.m. where the House and Senate would make a joint resolution dealing with the attacks on the U.S.

"I think it's very important for the American people to know they have not shut the government down and that we do not panic," Thorn-

berry said. "The goal of this is to cause chaos and panic."

Thornberry said a bill that he's pushing in Congress to improve coordination between federal agencies is especially pertinent today.

"I'm afraid this is an example of the different types of attacks we're going to face in the future," he said. "These group's are looking for ways that we are vulnerable."

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas released a statement Tuesday afternoon saying the government would do its best to track down whoever was responsible for the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil and bring them to justice.

"Those who live in the shadows and visit terror on the innocent have new reason to fear, because a terrible justice is coming," he said in the statement. "And those few for whom death holds no dread should be doubly afraid because they have awakened a giant who will eradicate them and all they stand for."

"Yesterday (Monday) America was at peace. Today we are not, and while there may be no country against which we can war, no borders will constrain our justice. The only limits in this war will be the ones in our Constitution and in our hearts."

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Bases remain under heightened security

Lynda Stringer
Times Record News.

The unspeakable horror of Tuesday's terrorist attacks on American soil had Sheppard Air Force Base and area military installations still under heightened security Wednesday, although Sheppard ratcheted its protection measures down one notch.

By early afternoon, Sheppard's 82nd Training Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Collings, made the decision to reduce the level of security from Force Protection Condition Delta — the highest security level — to Condition Charlie.

"That's still very much a heightened security level," Sheppard Chief of Public Affairs Maj. John Skinner said.

Collings said in a statement released Wednesday afternoon the base is in the process of accounting for all assigned Sheppard members, both at Sheppard and elsewhere and so far all are accounted for.

Collings expressed his personal feelings about the terrorism.

"Like Americans everywhere I am outraged by (Tuesday's) acts of terrorism and I feel tremendous sadness for the victims of the attacks," he said. "The thoughts and prayers of Team Sheppard are with these victims, their families and friends."

U.S. military units across the nation and world also maintained their high alert status ordered by President Bush on Tuesday.

The U.S. Air Force now uses the "force protection" levels, while the U.S. Army still refers to the security levels as "threat condition" levels. The lowest level is Condition Normal and levels increase from Alpha to Bravo to Charlie to Delta.

Fort Sill near Lawton, Okla. remained at its highest level of security, while Altus AFB, near Altus, Okla. lowered its security level to Condition Charlie.

Soldiers and civilian employees waited for hours in extremely long lines to get on Fort Sill at four open gates Wednesday.

"We opened two additional gates to alleviate some of the congestion," Fort Sill Public Affairs spokesman Master Sgt. Mark Smith said.

At Altus AFB, a base spokesman said the vehicle inspections were still being conducted at the gate. Only key and mission essential personnel reported to work at the Altus and Sheppard Wednesday, but normal duty schedules are back in place today.

The delays continued at Sheppard as well, "but it is a small price to pay when it comes to ensuring the safety of people," Collings said.

Skinner said anyone who has proper identification, such as retirees, would be allowed on base to go to medical appointments, the commissary and the Base Exchange, but the delays would likely continue at the gate.

The question of whether military forces should be used to retaliate for the horrendous acts of terrorism was on the minds of Americans Wednesday: nine in 10 supported military action against groups or nations responsible, even if it means going to war, according to an ABC-Washington Post poll.

While there has been no talk by Bush of declaring war, he called the deliberate, deadly attacks more than acts of terror. "They were acts of war," he said in a statement Wednesday. "This battle will take time to resolve, but make no mistake about it, we will win."

If war is declared on whomever is responsible for the Tuesday attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, local military missions would not immediately be involved.

Sheppard is a training base and home to the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program, which trains eight classes of pilots from the U.S. and eight other NATO nations each year.

The 371 undergraduate pilots training at Sheppard are still not flying Wednesday as an Air Education and Training Command.

The training flights were halted at the request of the Federal Aviation Administration Tuesday as all commercial

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Threat levels

The Pentagon put U.S. military forces on Threatcon Delta the highest possible level. Here are the five categories:

Threatcon Normal

No threat of terrorist activity is present.

Threatcon Alpha

There is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against installations, building locations, and/or personnel, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable.

Threatcon Bravo

There is an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity even though no particular target has been identified.

Threatcon Charlie

An incident has occurred or intelligence has been received indicating that some form of terrorist action is imminent.

Threatcon Delta

A terrorist attack has occurred or intelligence has been received that action against a specific location is likely.

SOURCE: Federation of American Scientists AP

cial flights were also cancelled across the nation.

The 80th FTW graduates up to 250 pilots each fiscal year and training is already at capacity. "To increase training would require more instructors and more planes," said Dave Smith, spokesman for AETC at Randolph AFB.

"Everything I could say at this point would be speculative," Smith said Wednesday.

"What they do at Sheppard and all AETC bases is train folks for the operation commanders and the overseas theater commanders. They're continuing to do their mission: training folks and getting them out into the theater. I think we would continue training at a normal level."

While Sheppard is under the heightened alert and the ground stop, the pilots are continuing their academic studies, simulator training and preparing for their next scheduled sorties, Sheppard media relations director Laura McGowan said.

"When the green light is given, they'll get back to business as usual," McGowan said.

"Despite this national tragedy, our mission continues," Collings said. "We remain committed to producing trained, professional, military members who stand ready to serve."

Fort Sill is a basic training post, but graduating troops could be deployed if the situation escalated. Officers training in artillery could be assigned to different units, Lt. Col. Mark Smith said.

No Texas National Guard units have been activated or deployed to help with security or relief efforts in New York and Washington, although guard units from those states were activated.

The TNG unit in Wichita Falls is part of 131st Field Artillery, is a multiple launch rocket systems unit. "They probably will not be tasked," Texas National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Robert Luna said. "We're still in a precautionary mode. If we are needed, we are willing to go help in any way we can."

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